

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 /016 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 065552

TOSEC 999 WHITE HOUSE PASS SAM 86970

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 1667 SENT SECSTATE INFO AMMAN  
BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JERUSALEM LONDON USIS MOSCOW DATED  
MAR 23.

QUOTE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1667

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS/ PFOR, XF, IS, EF, US

SUBJECT: RABIN PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: FBIS TA 23 1430

1. PRIME MINISTER RABIN MARCH 23 PRESS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM  
(FULL TEXT TRANSMITTED BY FBIS) PROVIDED GOI ASSESSMENT OF REASONS  
FOR SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS, REVIEWED CURRENT STATUS OF  
ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION AND REAFFIRMED CONFIDENCE IN U.S.-ISRAELI  
RELATIONS. MAIN THEMES ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. GOI HAD OFFERED WITHDRAWAL FROM PASSES

AND OILFIELDS IN EXCHANGE FOR NON-BELLIGERENCY DECLARATION,  
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AND ALSO HAS PROPOSED MORE LIMITED WITHDRAWAL FROM APPROXIMATELY HALF

OF PASSES AS WELL AS OILFIELDS FOR MORE LIMITED GOE POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. EGYPT HAD REJECTED THESE PROPOSALS, IN EFFECT DEMANDING VIRTUALLY UNILATERAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN RETURN FOR MINIMAL POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. GAP OVER POLITICAL SUBSTANCE, GEOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS AND TIME FACTORS COULD NOT BE BRIDGED. RABIN ALSO SAID IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THAT GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAD NOT INFLUENCED IN ANY WAY GOI'S CONSIDERATIONS IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. READINESS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. ISRAEL REMAINS PREPARED TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS WITH EGYPT AS WELL AS ANY OTHER PARTY TO DISPUTE. RABIN REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT REGARDING SPECIFICS OF NEXT STEPS.

4. DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS STILL IN FORCE. ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY TERMS OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA, PROVIDED THAT THESE TERMS ARE HONORED BY OTHER SIDES. RABIN REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER SUSPENSION OF TALKS HAD HEIGHTENED TENSION IN AREA, AND DENIED THAT ISRAEL HAS UNDERTAKEN PARTIAL MOBILIZATION.

5. U.S. - ISRAELI RELATIONS. RABIN REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED GOI'S DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS AND THE SECRETARY FOR USG'S GREAT EFFORT TO ASSIST PROCESS OF MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON CONTENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE, STATING THAT GOI NORMALLY RECEIVED MANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM U.S. PRESIDENTS WHICH WERE CONFIDENTIAL IN NATURE. HE SEVERAL TIMES EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS WOULD REMAIN VERY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY, AND THAT USG WOULD HONOR ALL ITS COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL. USG, HE SAID, DOES NOT ABANDON ITS FRIENDS.  
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